METRO / A23

6-year-old boy identifies Dennis Roldan in court as his abductor

ACROSS / A17

Radioman in GenSan still critical after docs remove bullet

LIFESTYLE / D1

9 striking home ideas: Go natural, cherish the imperfect

MOTORING / B2-1

So very in: Pint-sized cars in size, price

SC probers start work on CA bribe case

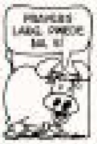
By Jerome Aning

THE THREE-MEMBER COMMITTEE formed by the Supreme Court convenes today to lay down the parameters of its investigation of the bribery scandal in the Court of Appeals (CA) and the dispute among its justices in connection with the case between Manila Electric Co. and the Government Service Insurance System.

The committee, composed of retired

SC PROBERS/A4

Polish monk likens orgasm to meeting God



WARSAW—HE HAS been dubbed the high priest of Catholic Kama Sutra, but Polish Friar Ksawery Knotz says that by giving married couples tips on how to practice di-

POLISH/A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, August 6, 2008 • 9 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 243 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Highest in 17 years: Inflation hits 12.2%

FILIPINO CONSUMERS HAD TO SHELL out 18.6 percent more in July for the same basket of food that they bought last year, data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed.

The high food prices pushed up the overall inflation rate year-on-year rate to 12.2 percent, the highest in almost 17 years. Inflation was at 11.4 percent in June.

The price of rice, the country's staple, rose 50 percent in July compared with a 43-percent increase in June.

The poor are particularly vulnerable to rising prices for staples because 60 percent of their spending goes to food, according to the Asian Development Bank.

The inflation data exceeded the central bank's expectations. Gov. Amando Tetangco of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said last month he expected inflation to average between 9 percent and 11 percent for the entire year and to peak at 12 percent before easing in the last quarter.

The latest inflation rate brought the average for the first seven months of the year to 8.3 percent.

Frederic Neumann, an economist at HSBC Asia Pacific, said the higher inflation rate did not surprise him too much.

"We do, in fact, expect inflation to top out between 13 and 14 percent by the early fourth quarter so that there is still some upside to this headline reading," he said.

Neumann said the important thing was to recognize that the central bank had taken a more aggressive stance

HIGHEST/A6



MILF: It's a done deal

But Esperon says gov't can't disregard judiciary

By Christine O. Avendaño in Putrajaya, Malaysia and Alcuin Papa and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila

IT'S A DONE DEAL.

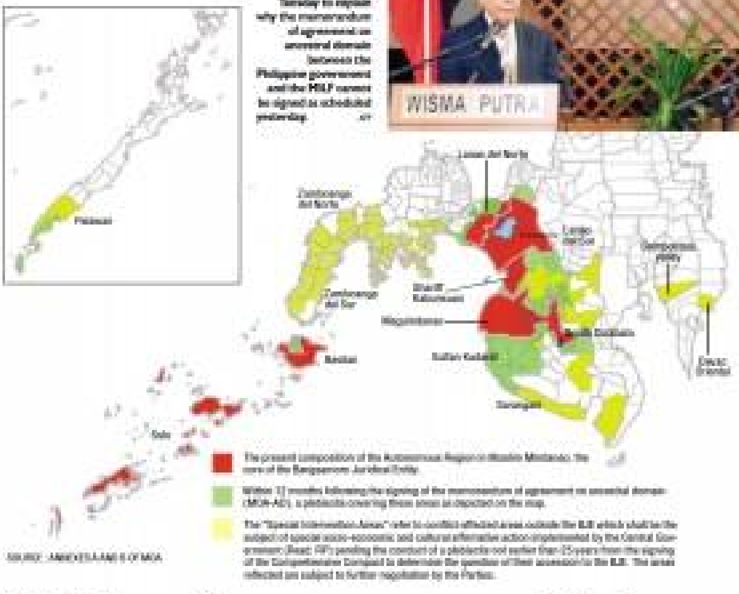
That's the position of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front a day after the Supreme Court stopped the MILF and the Philippine government from signing a memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain (MOA-AD) in a bid to end four decades of the separatist war in Mindanao.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, told reporters by phone from his base in Mindanao that the MOA became binding when it was initialed by the two sides on July 27 and Monday's aborted ceremony in Malaysia was

MILF/IT'S/A18



A TEMPORARY SETBACK, says Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo (left) as he and Malaysian Foreign Minister Rais Yatim face the press in Putrajaya, outside Kuala Lumpur, on Tuesday to explain why the memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain between the Philippine government and the MILF cannot be signed as scheduled yesterday. AFP



Moro state has powers with no limits, says solon

By Norman Bordadora

A BANGSAMORO STATE BEREFT of respect for civil and human rights will be formed once the memorandum of agreement (MOA) on ancestral domain between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is signed and becomes reality, an administration lawmaker

MORO STATE/A18

US envoy brightens dark mood in Malaysia

By Christine O. Avendaño

PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA—US Ambassador Kristie Kenney yesterday brought a fresh breath of cheeriness amid the sour atmosphere here as a result of the aborted signing of an accord on a Moro homeland.

"I'm sure they, the Malaysians who worked hard with the MILF would have loved to have a signing. But, you know, respecting the democratic process is never a cause for embarrassment and you have to respect the court and to have not done that would have been wrong," Kenney said.

"It's the rule of law. So, I don't think you regard this as embarrassment," the US ambassador

US ENVOY/A18

2 bishops fear resurgence of violence

By Kristine L. Alave and Inquirer Mindanao

TWO ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS in Mindanao expressed fears about the possible resurgence of violence over a proposed peace deal that would set up a Bangsamoro homeland enjoying broad powers.

Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez of Marbel and Bishop Guillermo Afable of Digos aired their concerns in interviews on Radio Veritas as they accused the Arroyo administration and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) of crafting the deal expanding the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) without consulting both Christian and Muslim stakeholders.

The bishops spoke shortly after the Supreme Court stopped the signing in Malaysia of a memorandum of agreement

2 BISHOPS/A18

Solzhenitsyn books like barriers vs Soviet might

NEW YORK—THE LEGACY OF Nobel laureate Alexander Solzhenitsyn serves as a reminder that books can matter as much as life and death.

Solzhenitsyn, who died on Sunday at the age of 89, never stood before a tank in Tiananmen Square, but his novels such as "Cancer Ward" and "The First Circle" landed like roadblocks before Soviet might, their power enshrined and magnified by his government's determination

SOLZHENITSYN/A20

Rush-hour commute: Train cheapest, fastest ride



EASY RIDERS Inquirer's Cira Goyagoy and Rosa Camongol (seated 3rd and 4th from left) and Izah Morales of Inquirer.net (left, standing). LYN RILLON

THREE TEAMS. THREE DESTINATIONS. But bring your own fares.

Commuting by train remains the cheapest and fastest way to travel in Metro Manila, based on results of the first two days of the "Rush-hour commute," a race that was devised by the Inquirer in which volunteers were given three routes and various modes of transportation to get to their destination for three days from Aug. 4 to 6.

The objective is to determine the speediest and most economical commute during rush hour.

Day 1 (Monday) was won by Team MRT that traveled from Edsa North Avenue in Quezon City to Taft Avenue in Pasay in 36 minutes. Each team member paid P15.

Team MRT was composed of Penelope Endozo of the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) and Jamie Ocbo of Inquirer.net.

Day 2 (yesterday) saw the teams racing from Santolan in Pasig City to C.M. Recto in Manila. Team LRT won, arriving at the final destination in 33 minutes, with each member paying P15. Team LRT was composed of Cira Goyagoy, Rosa Camongol and Lyn Rillon of the PDI

RUSH-HOUR/A6

Second
FRONTPAGE

SUERTRES

EZ2

SIX DIGIT

6/42 LUZ/MIN/VIS/MIN

P8,377,518.60

POWER LOTTO

P50,000,000.00

Jpepa closer to Senate approval

12 senators back Miriam committee report

TWELVE SENATORS HAVE agreed to endorse Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's committee report on the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa), moving the landmark trade and services pact with Tokyo closer to ratification.

US Army to try GI for Pinay's rape

SSS goes offline







ALL-OUT
CLEARANCE
SALE
Discounts up to
50% off
on selected items
August 1 - 31, 2008
Come Home
Enjoy exciting events and great discounts the whole month of August!
All-Out Treats
Here's your chance to meet your favorite stars!
ROBINSONS
Malls



Finding it Hard to Slim Down?
Try the 3-Month Easy Slimming Program at Marie France!
Experience an effective, easy slimming program that won't involve surgery, strenuous exercise or crazy diets! With modern all-in-one technology, you get the safest weight-loss and inch-loss options to give you fantastic results in as little as 3 months!* Don't wait, call Marie France now. Slimming down doesn't have to be hard!
FREE WEIGHT-LOSS STARTER PROGRAM
upon enrollment from August 4-9, 2008 only
Call 894-BODY (2639)
marie france

Health chief warns: Don't risk going to iridologists

Ophthalmology board inducts new diplomates

Oil, power firms to be audited

Verifying 'under-recoveries'

Cebu Pacific: It's back to 'purgatory'

Sulpicio report submitted Friday

Highest in 17 years: Inflation hits 12.2%

Typhoon 'Frank'

Transport fare increases

Monetary policy

SC probers start work on CA bribe case



VERDICT IS OUT On the steps of justice, militant groups outside the Supreme Court weigh the just and the corrupt and the verdict is that they trust Court of Appeals Justice Jose Sabio Jr. who exposed bribery attempts last week.

Untarnished record

Like a court trial

Cruz's opinion

Stigma

Rush-hour commute: Train cheapest, fastest ride



TEAM CAR Elvin Mara and Stephanie Asuncion of Team Car gas up after finishing the commute on Day 1.



FULL HOUSE Penelope Endaca of Team MRT stands all the way from the North Avenue station to the Magallanes station.

Baseline data

Day 1

Day 2

Last chance to catch it


Horseshoe. Four leaf clover. Rabbit's foot.
Here's the luckiest of all.
FORD'S
Lucky 8s
68k
downpayment all in or
₱8,888
monthly*
Ford Ranger - 88K downpayment all in • Ford Everest - 168K downpayment all in
ford.com.ph
Ford
Make Every Day Exciting


Metrobank
SUPER SHOPPING'S FREE
Use your Metrobank Credit Card
and win FREE shopping for a year!
Keep using your Metrobank Credit Card!
Metrobank
You're in good hands

A Call on the Senate to Reject JPEPA

A reciprocal, economically beneficial, fair, lawful, and pro-Filipino economic partnership agreement: This is what the Filipino people are entitled to. It is not what we are getting from the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA).

We call on the Senate to stand up for the Filipino people on the issue of JPEPA.

Whereas, the Philippine Constitution is the highest law of the land and no law, treaty, or other instrumentality should contradict or subvert it.

Whereas, the Constitution holds paramount the social, economic, political, and environmental interests of the Filipino people.

Whereas, treaties should be reciprocal, economically beneficial, and fair.

Whereas, JPEPA violates our Constitution by

- Allowing Japanese investors to own Philippine private land for all ventures other than those in the manufacturing and services sector.
- Allowing Japan to fish in Philippine waters - an activity reserved solely for Filipino citizens.

Whereas, JPEPA forces the Philippines to surrender several rights - which other ASEAN members refused to do in their agreements with Japan - as a result of which the Philippines can no longer require, by law, Japanese firms to transfer technology, hire Filipino workers, and appoint Filipino managers and executives, even if equally qualified.

Whereas, the manner by which Philippine commitments were arrived at was itself unconstitutional. The Executive Branch, on its own and without a law from Congress, unilaterally eliminated the tariffs on several goods.

Whereas, JPEPA violates Philippine laws, specifically

- RA 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Act), which prohibits the importation of hazardous and nuclear wastes.
- RA 7160 (Local Government Code), since JPEPA takes away from local governments the power to enact future local legislations inconsistent with the Philippine commitments to extend national treatment and most-favored-nation treatment to Japan.

Whereas, JPEPA further threatens Philippine sovereignty since

- It prohibits the enactment by Congress of future laws that will be inconsistent with the Philippines' JPEPA obligation to extend national treatment to Japanese investors.
- It calls for looking into the possibility of amending present laws to be consistent with JPEPA, e.g., the Clean Air Act, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, and the Toxic and Hazardous Waste Act, in order to accommodate toxic waste importation, a commitment not found in Japan's agreement with other ASEAN nations.

Whereas, JPEPA contains extremely lopsided economic and related provisions:

- It allows the Japanese to exclude and thus protect 651 of its products, i.e., they are not committed to further lower the existing tariffs for the entry of these Philippine products to Japan while the Philippines protected only 6 of its products.
- The deal it offers to Philippine nurses is professionally demeaning.

Whereas, JPEPA could have been more balanced:

- In their treaties with Japan, the other ASEAN countries - Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Singapore - were more protective of their national interests.

Whereas, JPEPA undermines the international obligation under the Basel Convention and its amendment to prohibit the export of toxic waste from rich to poor countries and to dispose of toxic waste in the country where it is generated.

Whereas, concurrence by the Senate with side agreements by respective government agencies cannot correct the infirmities of JPEPA, since

- Side agreements tread on dangerous waters, as had been shown by precedents in the area of international treaties.
- The faults and ills of JPEPA cannot be fixed by side notes. The threats on the environment, on the laws, and on the livelihood of the Filipino people cannot be eliminated by a general statement that our so-called trading partner will respect Philippine laws.

Now therefore, we, the undersigned, ask the Senate to fulfill its role as check and balance to the Executive branch of government, to do right by the Filipino people and reject this infirm, lopsided, unlawful, and unconstitutional treaty.

In its present form, the Senate must REJECT JPEPA.

Signed:

[illegible]

For more information, please visit:
www.junkjpepa@blogspot.com and www.greenconvergence@blogspot.com

Jamby aunt's will covered all assets, heirs' lawyer says



Judge on leave

BIR won't refund Lucio Tan just yet

Not in Tax Code

MILF: It's a done deal





Not bound by order

Esperon disagrees

Nobody is giving up on peace

'Purely temporary impasse'

'We might as well separate'

3 marks of independent state

US envoy brightens dark mood in Malaysia



Moro state has powers with no limits, says solon



LOCSIN

Look who's brokering

'Reverence for women'

Not just piece of paper

One of many

UP prof says cut in 'natgas' royalties to boost growth

[illegible]

More jobs

[illegible]

'Julian' leaves but spawns more rain

[illegible]

Pangasinan farmers granted land patents

[illegible]



Malice behind cases, Nani's lawyer claims

Unaware

Affidavit of desistance

We did our duty

Taipei Pinoys lead fundraising for Aklan

Starting a New Life Wholeheartedly

"I knew they would do everything for me to live a healthier life."

– Elaine Velasco





Hole in the Heart

Non-Invasive Treatment

Moving forward

The Daily Gospel

Wednesday, August 6, 2008



UNIQUE
TABASCO
BRAND
Mc ILHENNY CO.
TABASCO
BRAND
PEPPER SAUCE
BRAND



Philippine Airlines
GREAT VALUE FLIGHTS
FOR AS LOW AS
USD 88++
MANILA to MACAU
Get great value from our Austral-Asian special fares promo to selected Asian destinations. Enjoy the amenities of our world-class terminal. Relax in our spacious seats. And experience our renowned in-flight service and on-board entertainment.
AUSTRAL-ASIAN FARES PROMO
USD 118++
MANILA to SINGAPORE/ JAKARTA/SAIGON/ TAIPEI/BANGKOK/GUAM XIAMEN/HONG KONG
USD 168++
MANILA to SHANGHAI
USD 268++
MANILA to BEIJING
USD 438++
MANILA to TOKYO/ OSAKA/FUKUOKA/ NAGOYA
USD 468++
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Sale period: July 22 - September 28, 2008
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INQUIRER

OPINION

Swindled

EDITORIAL



The sinister motive behind the MOA

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Trojan horse

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(To be concluded)

Secret pacts vs open covenants

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



The entrepreneurial spirit

AT LARGE

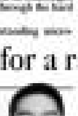
Rina Jimenez-David



Recommendations for a rainy day

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



Anglicans

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



Anglican Communion

Women priests





Opinion

A moving tribute

LETTERS

'Useless' traffic regulations only enrich the enforcers

Practice makes wrong things right?

Chiz, you're on

Bad service of SSS scored

PNP sends 6,000 men for ARMM polls

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE STARTED sending more than 6,000 of its men to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, saying it was prepared for the "worst-case scenario" in traditionally volatile elections in the region where computerized vote counting would be tested.

[illegible]



WOMEN will form part of the contingent of special police units that would be sent to the ARMM for the Aug. 11 elections.

[illegible]



SPLASH

[illegible]

Radioman still critical after docs remove bullet

[illegible]

Fugitive-turned-preacher held for rapes

[illegible]

Calatagan tillers to march in bid vs cement plant

[illegible]

Puerto Princesa execs raid house making fake honey

[illegible]



[illegible]



CARAMOAN ROCKS

Policeman held for mayor's slay

Farmers face bleak harvest as rats ravage corn farms in Aurora

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

The challenge to carve a 'Tatak Isabelino'



'Don't I always joke (that) I am single and (Isabelinos) are in no danger of my own dynasty?'

'In the coming days, we will see how STL will change the 'jueteng' landscape in Isabela'

Ancient 'balite' tree battles for life in Aurora



World salutes Solzhenitsyn

Solzhenitsyn books like barriers ...

'Mankind's sole salvation'

World changed by poets

Polish monk likens orgasm ...

Booked solid

'Theology of O'

'Appease thy wife'

Inspired by family, JPII

Satisfied couple

Solons grill Palace execs over Bangsamoro state

By Christian V Esguerra



PREPARED FOR THE WORST

Source of outrage

Mindanao now, Luzon next?

Fear of backlash

Consultations after, not before

Zamboangueños want out

"Why chaos?"

2 bishops fear resurgence of violence

Fighting erupts

Sacrificial lambs in name of peace

Sobriety needed

Not final yet


In the heart of the Philippine financial district…
One Central brings you heaven on the seventh floor.
One
CENTRAL
Open House every Friday and Saturday,
from 9 AM to 7 PM,
at the Showroom, Greenbelt Parkplace,
132 C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
856-4220, 856-4221 or Cell# 0915-3137400.
MEGAWORLD

Aplus METRO

Boy points to Roldan as his kidnapper

Ex-solon identified in court by victim in 3-year-old abduction case

WITH HIS FATHER BY HIS SIDE PROVIDING support, a 6-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy yesterday positively identified in court former actor and Congressman Dennis Roldan as the man who kidnapped him and held him captive for several days in 2005.





GOOD JOB

Sta. Cruz building on fire for 22 hours; ₱26M lost

Manila city council junks Lim order on slaughterhouse takeover

QC furniture showroom hit by fire; ₱2.5M in property damaged

DID YOU KNOW

Taguig farmers to tap city's farmlands for food project



CURIOUS AUDIENCE

'Payatas biogas plant now income-generating facility'

Employment

Leviste witness to appear in Makati court trial today

'Prepared to meet lies'

Skirmish



MOTHER SHIP

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EN BANC MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HELD ON JULY 31, 2008

Present:

On Official Business :

* * * * * * * * *

PROVINCE	NAME AND LOCATION OF CANVASSING CENTER

PROVINCE	NAME AND LOCATION OF CANVASSING CENTER

SO ORDERED.

JOSE A. R. MELO
Chairman

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

MOSLEMEN T. MACARAMBON
Commissioner

LEONARDO L. LEONIDA
Commissioner

On Official Business
LUCENITO N. TAGLE
Commissioner

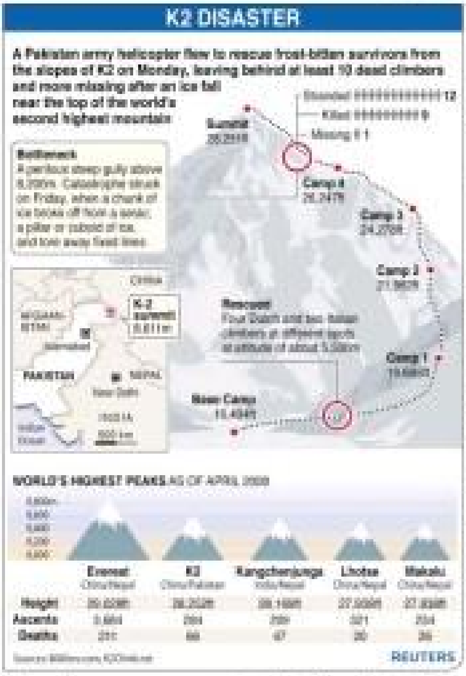
MetroBriefs

Fake jewelry, shirts worth P2 million seized

QC to have two new congressional districts'

Balasico; 91

K2 DISASTER



China apologizes for manhandling 2 Tokyo reporters

Iran warns on closure of key oil route

Survivor recounts fatal mistakes



CLONED PETS
Bernann McKinney from Hollywood, California, smiles as she holds up a clone of her late beloved terrier pitbull ... at the Seoul National University animal hospital in Seoul on Tuesday. ... the world's first commercial cloning of a pet dog.

WORLDBRIEFS

Little or no treatment

NYT

Italian troops to fight crime

Reuters

Guantanamo war crimes trial

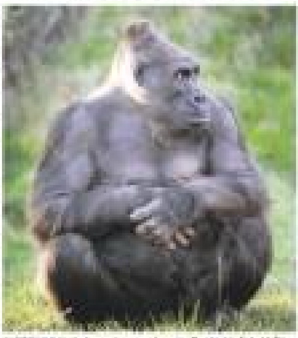
Reuters

The WORLD

Obama urges tapping oil reserves

Deforestation, meat hunt threaten monkeys, apes

[illegible]



A GORILLA sits in its enclosure at London Zoo in this Feb. 16 file photo. Almost half the world's monkeys and apes are facing extinction, a recent international report showed.

[illegible]



SEN. Barack Obama addresses the audience during a campaign stop at the Lansing Center in Michigan on Monday.

[illegible]

Bush takes delicate Asia trip

[illegible]

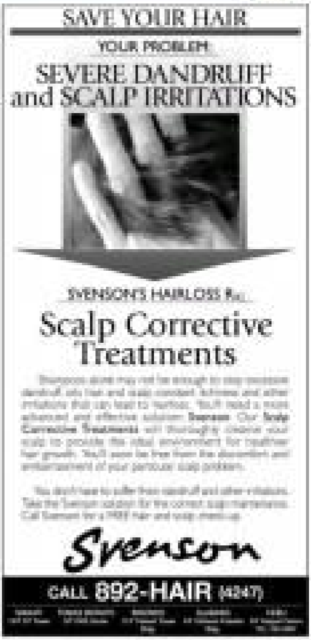
Probe ordered on stampede

[illegible]

SPORTS

Kings, Express start 'Fiesta' battle today









Akiko wants elite athletes protected from politics

Knights meet Blazers today

Stags battle Dolphins



De Luna's fate at PSC hangs

So tops Hungarian, shares 4th place in World Junior

SPORTSWATCH

Enchanted Kingdom hosts karting super series Sunday

Pahabol 4-cock derby at SJC



Kaya FC seeks 2nd Copa title

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

China set to host politics-free Olympics

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



Nationals undergo motivational workshops

By Cedelf P. Tupas

THE PHILIPPINE CONTINGENT SETTLED in the Athletes Village in Beijing will be undergoing nightly motivational workshops to keep them focused at the task at hand: Winning the country's first Olympic gold medal.

[illegible]

High spirits

[illegible]

Team RP arrives in Beijing

BEIJING—CARRYING THE HOPES OF AN ENTIRE NATION, TEAM Philippines finally landed on Chinese shores looking fit and in high spirits, with the hope that one of its members would finally end a gold medal drought for the country.

[illegible]







BEIJING OR BUST The country's representatives to the Beijing Olympics get ready for their flight to the Chinese capital. Among those who made the trip yesterday were (clockwise from top) swimmers Ryan Arabejo and Daniel Coakley, swimming coach Jason Calanog, boxer Harry Tañamor and swimmer Christel Simms.

Pumaren leaves Green Archers

By Jasmine W. Payo

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A DECADE, the La Salle Green Archers will have to make do without head coach Franz Pumaren.

[illegible]



PUMAREN

Homesick athletes focus on 'mission'

By Cedelf P. Tupas

[illegible]

Dottie, Cyna fire 74s, near playoff phase

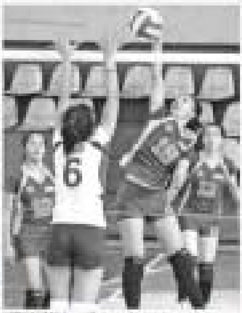
DOTTIE ARDINA AND CYNA RODRIGUEZ [illegible]

Red Cross poker tilt kicks off

[illegible]

Lyceum, RTU wallop WNCAA volleyball foes

LYCEUM, RIZAL TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY AND San Beda College-Makati [illegible]



[illegible]

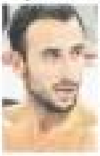
Kings . . .

From page A??

[illegible]

SPORTS

Argentina team ready to defend basketball gold



GINOBILI



Barkley-plastered Angola eyes Olympic surprise

Australia, US tankers take on the world





Torch heads for Beijing

Gay on 100-m sprint showdown: 'I'll be ready'

IN THIS ISSUE

- Napocor attaches TSCs to plants /B3
- PLDT net P19.38 in first half /B4

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Dennis B. Mariano

BSP to maintain tight monetary policy

By Doris C. Dumlao

AS THE RISE IN CONSUMER PRICES SURGED TO ITS fastest rate in 17 years, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas announced that it would maintain its monetary policy "appropriately tight" in order to curb rising cost pressures.

"Inflation is expected to peak in early fourth quarter and then start moderating," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said in a statement after the National Statistics Office reported that the July year-on-year inflation rate had hit 12.2 percent. (See related story on Page B1.)

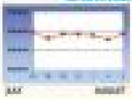
Inflation last month again overshot the BSP's forecast range of 11.2 to 12 percent for the period.

"Monetary policy will continue to be appropriately tight until we see a more benign outlook and manageable inflation expectations," Tetangco said.

Central banks tend to tighten mon-

TURN TO PAGE B4

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

44.138

Shares close flat

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed little changed after a higher-than-expected inflation report curbed gains, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange

LRTA seen completing LRT extension bid in Aug.

4 firms vie for Package C deal

Lucio Tan to do a Solomon



Bastion of calm in summit's midst

Clock ticking for PBCom

Now it can be told

From prey to predator

Cebuanos want Petron

The 'N' in DBL

Foreign chambers suggest solution for jobs mismatch

UCPB may need more capital to improve rating

Tiu family eyes resort project in Palawan

PSE ties up with Thailand Stock Exchange

Napocor attaches TSCs to plants

Move seen to improve assets' marketability

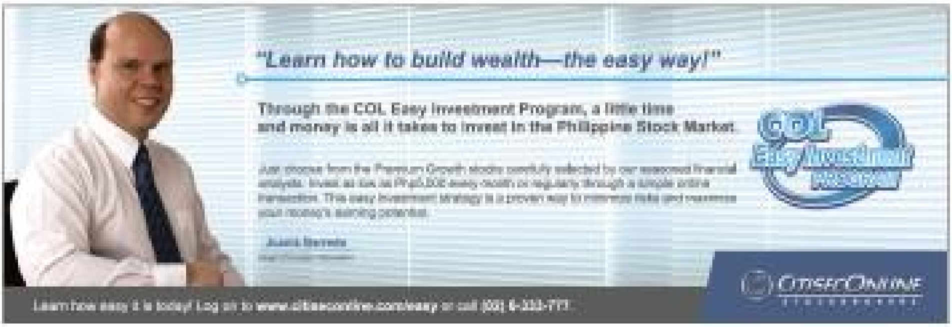
Shares close flat











PLDT nets ₱19.3B in H1

Pangilinan takes cautious stance for H2

Highlands expands

Globe numbers down

Gov't revenue up 22%

Postcripts

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



BSP to maintain . . .

Business

Expensive fertilizer seen cutting 'palay' output

DA reviews numbers, plans to help farmers cope with costs

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRIculture is reviewing its palay production forecast for this wet cropping season, as farmers cut back on their use of expensive petroleum-based fertilizers.

The rising cost of fertilizer is a cause for grave concern for farmers as prices of the vital input per bag more than doubled to P2,000 a bag from years ago levels, significantly padding production costs and cutting farmers' incomes.

"We have to fine-tune our intervention measures and possibly review production forecasts now that field reports point to lower-than-expected fertilizer usage by farmers as a result of the substantial increase in the cost of chemical fertilizers," Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said in a statement.

Yap said preliminary reports show that the use of fertilizers has so far dropped by about 30 percent because of prohibitive prices.

With farmers cutting back on fertilizer use, the DA said this may cause a drop in the projected harvest volume this wet or main cropping season.

Fertilizers account for about 30 percent of the cost of producing palay.

Ideally, farmers have to use at least six bags of this input to ensure harvests of around 4-5 MT per hectare.

This means that a farmer must shell out at least P12,000 a hectare.

"That's why we are now looking for ways to increase harvests despite this production setback and help farmers cope with spiraling fertilizer costs," Yap said.

For the second half of the year, the DA targets palay production to reach more than 10 million metric tons.

Adding that to the harvest in the first half of 7.3 million MT, the DA expects to hit a record output of at least 17.3 million metric tons of palay by the end of the year.

"The high cost of fertilizers can cut production for the wet season, but to what level, that has yet to be studied," Yap earlier said.

Planting for the wet season will not be over until Sept. 15 and the DA is hoping to introduce measures to encourage farmers to plant palay.

The DA is also still studying the impact of its distribution of fertilizer discount coupons to farmers.

So far, the DA has given close to 3.6 million fertilizer discount coupons worth P967 million to farmers, reaching as many as 1.8 million hectares of farms.

MOTORING

Pint-sized cars—in size and price—are in



EATING GREEN, DREAMING GREEN:

By Tessa R. Salazar

(Conclusion)

THE PINT-SIZED CAR HAS A lot to thank for nowadays. Once disdained by the Filipino motorist for being a "bully magnet" on the road, the mini-compact is enjoying serious thought, and serious purchases, these days.

What's contributing to this particular car segment's newfound popularity are:

• The sudden spike in world oil prices (actually all prices are going down as we speak, but the pump prices are not).

• The increasing concern for Mother Earth who's developing a bad case of the

Pint-sized cars—in size and price—are in



The feel



CHERY QQ's rear

Cost of maintenance

Maintaining the Prius

Prius battery



Driving normally but still saving fuel



Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

WITH THE HIGH PRICE of gasoline and diesel nowadays, it is common to hear tales about motorists doing the extreme just to squeeze every kilometer they could out of their fuel tank.

[illegible]

Excellent mileage

[illegible]

Real as possible

[illegible]



WHILE THE CARAVAN is not a contest, the four Filipino participants, nevertheless, treated their drive just like any other competition.

ISUZU and Thai officials were with the caravan to supervise the sealing of the vehicles.

[illegible]

Pride

[illegible]



AT THE THAILAND-MALAYSIA border, each participant must come down to meet the immigration officer.

Determination

[illegible]

Reacquaintance with Nissan's Grand Livina



THE THIRD row seat is easily folded forward to increase cargo space.

[illegible]

Selling points

[illegible]

Fun to drive

[illegible]





NOT just for midgets: the full-sized third-row seat of the Grand Livina.

THE 7-SEATER Grand Livina [illegible]



NISSAN'S Grand Livina aims to grab market share from the Toyota Innova.



THE NEAT two-tone interior of the Grand Livina.



THE 1.8-LITER, DOHC 16-valve engine of the Grand Livina.

Reacquaintance with Nissan's Grand Livina

On the Road

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

AFTER DRIVING THE NISSAN Grand Livina in exotic Bali last year, what's it like to drive it in Metro Manila this year? To find out, I borrowed one recently from Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. (NMPI), which launched the Grand Livina in Manila last June.

Readers of this column may recall that in March 2007 Nissan Motor Co. invited motoring journalists from China, Malaysia, Japan and the Philippines as well as Indonesia to test drive its new seven-seater (three-row) car-based multipurpose vehicle (MPV) in Bali. The test drive units were the 1.5- and 1.8-liter models.

Global

The Grand Livina is part of Nissan's global strategy to produce vehicles with the flexibility to meet the needs of diverse customers worldwide. It went on sale in November 2006 in China as the Livina Geniss, was introduced in Indonesia in April 2007 after the Bali test drive and then debuted in Taiwan, South Africa and Malaysia before the year ended.

As part of Nissan's global strategy, the Grand Livina series will be manufactured locally in the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and South Africa. Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn said that the Grand Livina was specifically developed to meet the needs of customers in the Asean and that it was not adapted from other Nissan models sold in the United States, Europe or Japan. In other words, the Grand Livina was designed for emerging markets.

Awareness

The high position of the Grand Livina's air intake shows Nissan's awareness of the flooded roads that Asean motorists often have to drive through during the rainy season.

In the Philippines as well as in other Asean countries, the extended family traveling together is a cherished tradition. Nissan had this in mind when it designed the Grand Livina to smoothly accommodate and transport seven people, including the driver, in comfort. Sure, there are several other seven-seater, competitively priced MPVs like the Toyota Innova and the Mitsubishi Fuzion, but they are not car-based like the Grand Livina and thus do not offer the same ride quality.

Segment

Since it is smaller than the Innova but bigger than the Toyota Avanza or the Kia Carens, the question naturally arises as to which segment of the car market the Grand Livina belongs. The probable answer is somewhere between the SUV and the passenger sedan, since it is marketed as the MPV that drives like a sedan.

The Grand Livina's monocoque body is built on the Latio platform, similar to a passenger car's, the suspension system consists

REACQUAINTANCE/B2-5

LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Contributing Editor Lia S. Bernardo



REFLECTING pond outside Budji Layug's showroom in Bangkok

Chasing Budji in Bangkok

Text and photos by Gibbs Cadiz

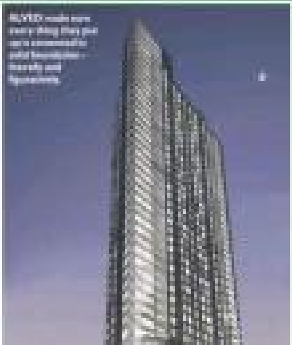
WE WERE IN THE MIDdle of a mangrove swamp, motoring by boat to a coastal Muslim community south of Phuket, when Dave casually said, "I heard Budji Layug has opened a furniture store in Bangkok."

Alveo: New name, same old penchant quality and innovation

By Kenneth M. del Rosario



LET your children play on secured grounds.





RESIDENTS can go home from work in five minutes.









"CONTEMPORARY Asian living" as showcased in Layug's showroom, which features, aside from his acclaimed pieces, works by other Movement 8 artists like Kenneth Cobonpue, Milo Naval, Ann Pamintuan, et al.

Chasing Budji in Bangkok

From page C1

Suwanni Hirai, who turned out to be a Filipina married to a Thai. A long-time Bangkok resident, she spoke the language and wrote the script fluently. She hadn't been to Budji Layug's place, but she knew the address, so I had her write it down, in Thai script, in my notebook.

I hailed a cab outside the hotel, showed the driver the address, and was on my way.

Layug's showroom was in Sukhumvit in a district called Thonglor, an upscale commercial-residential area about 45 minutes' ride from central Bangkok. I'd been warned about the infamous Bangkok traffic, but since I got a cab easily, and I intended to wrap up my planned interview with Budji in two hours max, I figured I would be back in my hotel room by 5 p.m. Night shopping at Suan Lum still loomed ahead; I had enough time.

The silence inside the taxi was oppressive, so I tried to strike up a conversation.

"Do you speak English?" I asked the driver.

"Noooo!"

Does "No" sound the same in Thai? I don't know, but that was how I heard it. More to the point, the cab driver blurted his vehement "No" while violently drawing back, as if I had said something evil.

"Ay, suplado," I thought. I shut up for the rest of the ride.



DESIGNED like a regular home, the showroom aims to "show the lifestyle and not just the furniture."

Showroom and home

We found the place. I paid the driver who grunted what must have been "Thank you," and I went in. Layug was in Manila, but Rocky, the VP for operations, was in.

Budji Living, which opened in June 2003, was a showroom and home rolled into one. It's a house with '50s architecture, which he transformed into a modern minimalist showroom. The second floor housed private quarters, while the spacious ground area was devoted to the distinctive furniture pieces and home accents that Mr. Layug and his Movement 8 co-artists (among them Kenneth Cobonpue, Milo Naval, Ann Pamintuan, Tes Pasola,



THE SENSIBILITY is light and airy, almost resort-like.

ENTRANCE to Budji Living in Sukhumvit, Bangkok

Tony Gonzales, Luisa G. Robinson, Rene Vidal) designed and manufactured. Pieces by Claudio Tayag and Impy Pilapil, and fabrics by Jeanne Goulbourn, were also available.

Rocky said Mr. Layug had decided on opening his shop in a residential area rather than in a mall because he wanted to "show the lifestyle and not just the furniture." He had gotten acclaim for his aesthetic that has become known as "contemporary Asian living," which did away with the traditional clutter of Orientalia and instead emphasized streamlined designs, natural materials, an almost Zen-like ambience evoked by simple lines and earthy colors.

To this end, Budji Living was structured like a regular dwelling, with a living room, dining area, bedroom, a serene garden. In each zone, the furniture and accents were arranged to give visitors ideas on how to achieve the same look in their own homes.

The artworks, too (abstracts by Lito Carating, paper art by Tes Pasola, among others), complemented the light and airy, almost resort-like feel of Layug's design sensibility.

First-rate

All the furniture pieces on display were designed and executed in Manila and Cebu, and their first-rate quality testified to the bountiful talent and creativity of Filipino designers and crafts people.

The customer base of Budji Living in Thailand, said Rocky, ranged from foreign expatriates to wealthy locals attracted to one or two pieces of Budji furniture and who would ask their advice on how to blend these with their existing home fixtures.

The then Thai prime minister's son had bought a bed, and an ex-prime minister's residence was also being redone according to the Budji Living philosophy. In other words, Budji Layug and his all-Filipino band of artists had become a big hit in Thai society.

I had nine pages filled with furious notes, plus loads of pictures, by the time I was done with the interview. It was now 4 p.m. I bade Rocky goodbye, walked toward the main highway, and confronted a horrendous sight.

The traffic was backed up as far as my eye could see. But at least it's moving, I told myself. I found another cab and settled in. About an hour later, we were effectively becalmed. The highway had become one giant parking lot. I was stuck in the middle of a city completely unfamiliar to me.

The driver, who also spoke no English, repeatedly pointed his finger upwards. I understood it to mean he wanted me to take the city's sparkling new LRT. I was frankly getting worried at this time, and the thought of jostling my way through unfamiliar technology didn't appeal to me. Instead, when I saw a Subway store, I promptly got out.

"Ngam natam me map-a this-glish din," I muttered. True enough, the guy at the counter understood me when I ordered a sandwich and requested a map of the city. He brightened up considerably when I told him I came from the Philippines.

"Philippines! I always want to go to Philippines!," he said. That eased my fears somewhat.

Worst traffic

Armed with a map, I began walking down the clogged highway, stopping only now and then to search for landmarks. Dusk was setting in, but the bright lights of big hotels and establishments along the way helped me breathe more easily.

I walked for nearly seven blocks, then, tired, hailed another cab waiting by a curb. The driver willingly nodded when I showed him the address on my hotel room card.

It took us two hours more to reach the hotel. My colleagues had been looking for me, since it was already 8 p.m. I had endured what the concierge later said was the worst traffic in Bangkok in months.

But I was happy. I had my Budji Layug story.

Back in Manila a few days later, I went to the boss, candidate and excited.

"I have another story aside from the travel piece," I said. "Budji Layug has this very successful shop in Bangkok, and I was able to visit—"

"Hala! That's Thelma's story this Friday," she said (referring to Thelma San Juan, who writes the "Life-Styled" column for Beauty & Fashion every Friday and a friend of Mr. Layug).

"Aaargh!"

That was about four years ago. Thelma San Juan is now back as editor of this section. Budji Layug's shop, thankfully, has remained unchanged—a showcase home and proud citadel of Filipino artistry in a strategic corner of Asia. He's hardly there these days, I heard, so he's busy with new projects in the Philippines.

My story never got written up, and the pictures never saw print. Until now.

This piece first appeared in the author's blog, www.gibbsadolfo.com. E-mail gsadolfo@inquirer.com.ph





BUDJI Layug's bed [illegible]

Welcome the rain lily

By Serapion E. Metilla
Contributor

THE RAIN LILY SEEMS TO WELcome you in the morning with their bright colors. It's called rain lily because it only blooms during the first rains after summer, usually last week of May to June and sometimes up to first week of July, depending upon the climate of a particular place.

Scientifically called Zephyranthes, the rain lily has two known varieties: Zephyranthes citrina and Zephyranthes grandiflora. Both are bulbous herbs belonging to the Amaryllidaceae family. The citrina variety has lemon yellow flowers, having channeled linear grass-like leaves about 20 to 30 cm long. Originally from Guyana and Trinidad, the lemon yellow funnel-shaped flowers about four centimeters across are borne on hollow stalks. Most of them bear almost all at the same time at the onset of the first regular rains just after the fall of summer.

The grandiflora variety has deep rose pink flowers, also funnelform but larger than the Zeph. citrina about 10 cm across. A native of Mexico and Guatemala which is popularly called "Zephyr lily," the large flowers are borne solitary at the end of a hollow stalk. The linear basal leaves are somewhat flat.

The rain lilies can either be potted or planted in the garden in mass. They should be placed in full sunlight situation. As potting soil medium, the base should be porous or a mixture of one part garden soil, preferably loam type, one part river sand and one part compost which can be a mixture of sawdust and rice hull.

Propagation can be done by division or separation of well-rooted bulbs. This can be done just after the blooming period. Almost the whole year, they grow green leaves.

Although the Zephyranthes are tropical in origin, they can tolerate winter but not to a freezing point. In winter like all other plants, they lose leaves and rest or hibernate so that in spring, they burst with flowers. In the Philippines, they can adapt to our climate and bloom when the rains come, thus the name "rain lily."

The author is open to any questions. Call 9324920 or e-mail metroplants@yahoo.com



FAJARDO'S garden is his idea of an Asian oasis with Mediterranean touches.

Interiors that exude cozy Orientalia

By Alex Y. Vergara

DESPITE HIS KILLER SCHEDULE, which includes frequent trips to suppliers in Vietnam and Cambodia, fashion designer Angelito "Boyer" Fajardo still finds the time to dabble into interior design either for himself or for his friends.

Fajardo's latest project, his own two-story home in a gated community in Pasig, is a juxtaposition of various antique and contemporary furniture and accent pieces from all over Asia. With hardwood walls and floors as its backdrop, the setup creates a chic, albeit ornate, eclectic feel that's neither purely Filipino nor Balinese.

Except for a number of old glass and crystal chandeliers from Europe, almost every piece that makes up the home's interiors—including artworks by Zaimuddin, Bellosa and Sarcedo—comes from the Orient.

The setup includes an accent chair with a hollow backrest fashioned from an old lahar by artist Daffy Ignacio. Fajardo himself transformed a number of intricate wooden dividers from the Philippines, Thailand and India into doors and wall accents in several rooms and sitting areas.



Well-traveled RTW designer Boyer Fajardo keeps to his sense of place and taste

FASHION designer Boyer Fajardo will always have a soft spot in his heart for interior design.

Hardwood furniture

Using hardwood sourced from torn-down houses in the countryside, Fajardo also designed a number of furniture pieces, particularly the dining room set fashioned from kamagong and his version of a four-poster bed made of molave in the master bedroom.

"I've accumulated a great deal of used hardwood over the years," he says. "I'm also the type who loves to collect stuff from my travels here and abroad with no clear idea as to when and how I intend to use them."

He later parlayed his penchant for collecting into a thriving antiques business in Quezon City. Located near Eastwood, in a building that once housed Don Henrico's restaurant, Angelitos also carries more contemporary accent pieces.

Apart from items sourced from Angelitos, the house's many focal points on the ground floor include several huge Maranao doors from the south, wooden dancing figures from Thailand and life-size images of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Manaoag in the living room.

Traditional marble floor coupons provide an ideal foil to the elaborate arrangement downstairs. For the second floor, however, Fajardo opted for the warmth exuded by molave planks. The house is also noteworthy for its liberal use of beveled mirrors in the dining room area and walls adjacent to the high ceiling.

Design as therapy

"For me, interior design is a form of therapy," says Fajardo. "As long as I have enough time, I don't mind giving advice to friends for free."

He bought the property, a corner lot with an old house located several streets away from his first home, several years ago. Before he could even begin transforming it into his idea of a tropical abode, Fajardo had the old structure, once owned by retired Chief Justice Felix Antonio, torn down and a new one designed by architect Raul Benavides built in its place.

"The old house was still livable, but it looked quite dated," he says. "The only feature I retained is the swimming pool. I also had to overhaul the garden to make way for my own design, an Asian oasis with Mediterranean touches."

Sensing an impending increase in the price of raw materials brought about by world events, including the Beijing Olympics, Fajardo had to double the number of his staff to finish the entire project in less than 18 months.

"Gas prices were just beginning to climb," says the minor businessman. "Then I factored in the coming Olympics, and how prices of raw materials would dramatically increase as China tries to corner everything to meet its own deadline."

Success in RTW

Fajardo may be one of the country's most successful RTW designers. His label, Boyer Fajardo, which now includes a men's line, has been around for almost two decades and is carried by some of the country's leading department stores such as SM, Rustan's and the Landmark.

But before he became a fashion designer, the Pampanga native was an aspiring interior designer taking up Fine Arts at the University of Santo Tomas. To support his education, he worked as an illustrator for various fashion designers, including Ben Farrales.

"My first love was really interior design," he says. "When I was young, I had no inkling that I'd end up one day as a fashion designer. But fate has a way of deciding things for you."

Before he knew it, Fajardo was doing wedding gowns and party dresses for blushing brides, career women and socialites of the day. A stint in Singapore in the late 1980s as an RTW designer introduced him to bigger, more lucrative possibilities.

"When I returned home a few years later, I used my knowledge and my contacts abroad to start my own RTW line here," he says. "I have no reason to regret my decision. But no matter what happens, my passion for interior design will always remain."



A NUMBER of doors, such as the one above, are adorned with wooden dividers.



HUGE Maranao doors, an antique Chinese lamp and a chunk of quartz from Mongolia are among the focal points along the staircase. The steps and landings are made of reused hardwood.



MAIN entrance to Fajardo's Pasig residence reflects the designer's love of hardwood and eclectic accent pieces.



A SELF-CONFESSED hoarder, Fajardo had the foresight to keep enough wood for his dream house. This dining room set he himself designed, for instance, is made of reused kamagong.



LIVING room is noteworthy for its high ceiling, crystal chandelier and strategic use of hardwood and decorative mirrors near the ceiling.



FAJARDO designed the garden himself using, among other elements, old wheels.





Eco-design revolution takes centerstage at Manila FAME Int'l







Bangko Sentral explains ATM charges

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolido

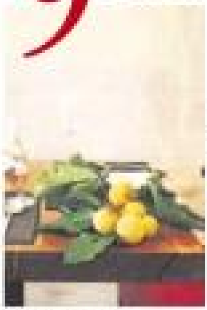
Dollar charges

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining



9 striking home ideas

Go natural, cherish the imperfect, think earthy and out-of-the-box



By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

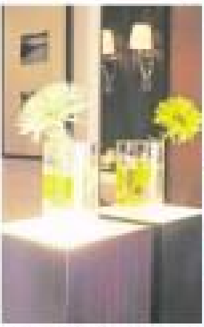
1 ARTIST AND FURNITURE maker Vida Johnson says collaborating with nature results in ephemeral art, as shown in this table setting at Bistro Filipino in Los Baños. The bunch of natural fruit on a bed of leaves is a uniquely pretty set-up.



2 A POWDER ROOM BEcomes a visual experience with this artful assemblage of natural materials. The runo, a stronger cousin of the bamboo, makes a charmingly rustic material for a divider that defines the bath area. Weaver Ditas Reyes' curtains, made from buri (fine indigenous fiber made from stalks of talipot palms), soften the cool textures of the Romblon marble walls. Buntal curtains are easy to maintain. Just wash with soap and water, dry in 15 minutes, then iron.



3 FIND BEAUTY IN imperfections. This cabinet, designed by architect Conrad Onglao, is given a distressed finish with the old mirrors to create a time-worn look. The cracks add character to the newly designed furniture. This transitional style serves as bridge between modern and traditional interiors.

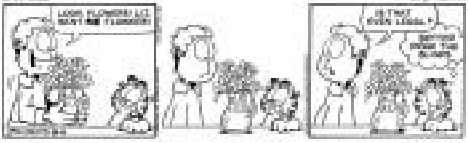


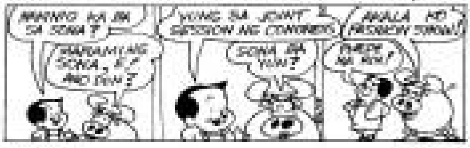
4 DRAMATIZE A SIMPLE floral arrangement with lighting. In this setup, Onglao creates a simple light pedestal of plywood with a rich finish. A series of these light pedestals illuminates a hallway, with flowers to add life to the setting.

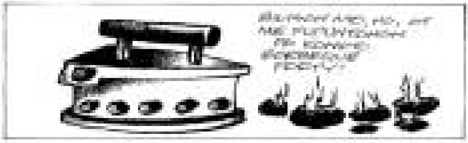
STRIKING D3



GARFIELD — By Jim Davis







PUGAD BABOY

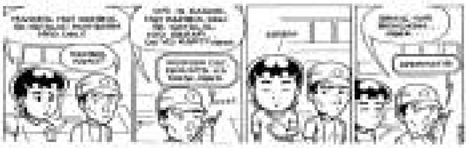


DIVINE COMEDY — By Steven Pabalinas



MIKROKOSMOS

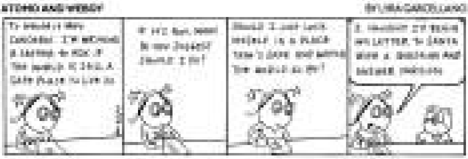




BABY BLUES — By Jerry Scott



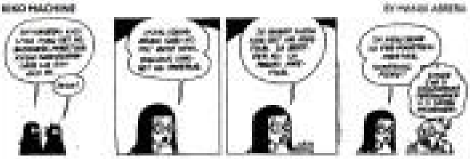
ATOMO AND WEBBY

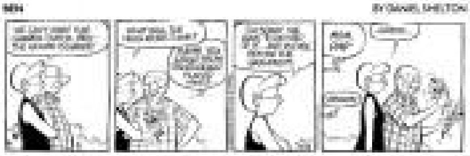


LOVENOTES



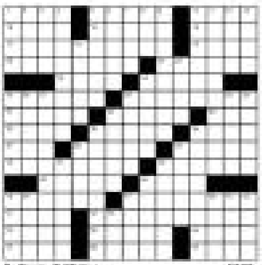
KIKO MACHINE — By Manix Abrera



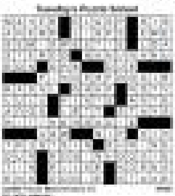


DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS



DOWN



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

	2	8				5	9	
3			9		8			4
			6		1			7
			5		9			8
		1			2			5
	5				4			3
4					7			9
1					5			6
5	7	9	3			4	1	

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

[illegible]	5	6	4	7	[illegible]	1	3	2
4	3	9	6	1	2	8	6	7
2	1	7	8	3	[illegible]	9	5	4
6	7	4	3	9	1	5	2	8
5	9	1	8	2	4	6	7	3
3	2	8	7	6	5	4	1	9
9	6	2	1	4	3	7	8	5
7	8	3	9	5	6	2	4	1
1	4	5	2	8	7	3	9	6

These works of art are Taiwanese glass sculptures that bring a sense of wellbeing and luck to your home



"OCEANIC Love." This piece represents the love of family. Its shape resembles the spirals of the ocean's waves. It speaks of the unconditional love that parents have for their children, and is best placed in the northeast side of the home.



"HIDDEN Treasure." For 2008, the year of the mouse, this piece represents the hardworking individual who knows how to stash a little something for the future. It is best placed in the east side of your home or office.



"PRESTIGE and Prosperity." This piece represents the idea that no man is an island. In order to succeed in life and to have prestige and prosperity, one must always work hand in hand with others and allow oneself to gain experience and wisdom. This is best placed facing [illegible] in order to combat any negative "chi" this year.

Auspicious glass

By Lia B. Bernardo
Contributor

TITTOT IS A PHONETIC translation of the Chinese term "Ti Ts," meaning transparent and clear. Tittot represents the Chinese belief in the radiance of glass art, reflecting the Chinese Feng Shui tradition.

Genevieve Sian, general manager of Tittot Philippines, explains that, in the past, Chinese glass art was synonymous with the exquisitely crafted and elegant snuff bottles of the Ching Dynasty.

Unfortunately, beginning in the 19th century, this craft disappeared into obscurity for more than 100 years before Heinrich Wang, the creative director of Tittot, revived the art form in 1987 through his studio glass-art movement.

Tittot's creations are based on a wide range of stories, reflecting historical events, anecdotes on the trials and tribulations of life, childhood memories, lessons learned from the past and tributes to historical events.

A very special feature of a Tittot creation is the inclusion of a short poem penned by Wang himself, describing the story behind the glass creation. Collectors are generally first attracted to this story before purchasing the artwork.

Tittot is available at 4/F [illegible] Shangri-La Plaza.



"PROMISE of Lovers." This piece is best placed in the southwest side of your home or master bedroom. It depicts frogs, which is said to express love and the longing for each other's companionship no matter the consequences.



"STEPPING Cloud Peaceful Paperweight." Sian suggests placing this paperweight on the north side of your office or home office this year to attract success and prosperity. It can also bring in good "chi" to your home. Dragons are symbols of mastery of oneself, which is why it was the chosen symbol of ancient Chinese emperors.

Do-it-yourself

With Anton Barretto and Marissa Lopa

Styling storage space

MAXIMIZING STORAGE SPACE AND BEING stylish about it can be challenging. Opt for furniture pieces with a dual purpose. Upholstered ottomans and wooden benches with hinged seats that open like a chest are just some of the choices that are both elegant and practical. These are perfect for storing throw pillows, linens, DVDs or seldom used items, and no one would be the wiser!





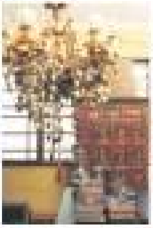


9 striking home ideas

From page B1



5 STENCIL ADDS STYLE. ONGLAO ADDS decorative interest to the ceiling with stencil markings, which create illusions of shadows and add more depth to the surface. This is a guest room of a model unit of East Tower at One Serendra.



6 CHANGE THE look of chandeliers with bows and crystals. Designer Anton Poña embellishes his three-tiered, seven-foot Spanish chandelier with little bows and crystal beads in jewel colors to create a new Venetian look. "All you need are components such as prism beads and the vision of what you want to create. It has to be carefully done," he says.



7 DECORATE A CHILD'S ROOM AROUND his or her toy or accessories collection. Bing and Rina Velasquez's residence, for instance, display toys and the child's artworks prominently. Consider materials that harmonize with the toy colors. Invest in curtains and bed skirts since they are the last to wear out.



8 A CONTAINER garden makes it possible to cultivate flowers, herbs, shrubs and trees in small spaces without much time and effort. No need to worry about preparing the soil, checking conditions, weeds, pests or drying out. This herbal container garden was created by Emma Alday for her sister Sonia Alampay in the latter's Batangas resthouse. The herbs are planted in containers at the back of the kitchen. When it's time to cook, they just pluck from the back.



9 USE A mosquito net to replace conventional aluminum screens. Homemaker Sonia Alday makes her own removable screens utilizing rolled mosquito net material. The fabric is hooked on a hinged chicken wire and given a wooden frame. The resulting screen is washable and easy to maintain.

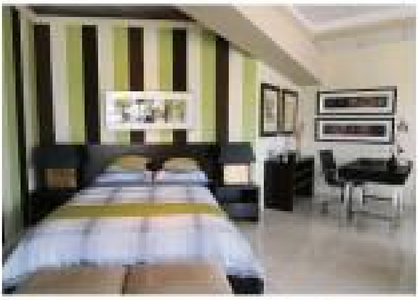
7 designs for 7 lifestyles, take your pick



COUNTRY HOUSE: The home becomes a heritage showcase of cherished traditions—luxurious, formal and relaxed.



GLAMOUR: Style, grace and fashion captured for the savvy urbanite.





THE LOFT: The enduring character of good design—contemporary, bold and vibrant.

METRO: Clean, urban design conducive to work, relaxation and entertaining.

Metro

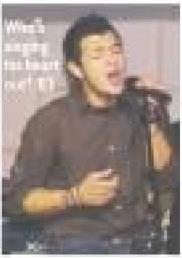
Ecology a key factor in design options



ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bernie B. Velarde

IN THIS ISSUE



Teen Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES—"GOSSIP GIRL" has six more reasons to cheer. Ditto the Jonas Brothers.

The CW television show about prep-school students and the squeaky clean boy band swept away with multiple trophies in the shape of surfboards at Sunday's 10th annual Teen Choice Awards. Winners were selected via over 50 million votes cast online. The event honors celebrities in TV, film, music, sports and fashion.

"GG" bagged six awards: TV Drama, Breakout Show, Breakout Male Actor Chace Crawford, Breakout Female and TV Drama Actress Blake Lively and TV Villain Ed Westwick, who plays the antagonistic Chuck Bass on the series.

The show, held at the Gibson Amphitheatre at Universal Studios Hollywood, was hosted by teen queen Miley Cyrus, 15, who picked up three awards. She kicked off the show with a performance of her new single, "7 Things." She later grooved with friend Mandy Jiroux and their dance team M&M Cru as part of a dance-off with Adam

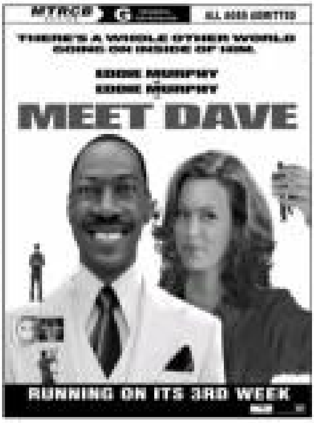
Slide E4





THE WAY THEY WERE: Benny Andersson, Anni-Frid Lyngstad, Agnetha Faltskog and Bjorn Ulvaeus, better known as the Swedish pop group ABBA, at the height of their popularity. The group's "Gold: Greatest Hits" album has just returned to the top of the UK charts.





Mamma mia, ABBA's back

LONDON -- SWEDISH SUPERGROUP ABBA made British chart history as its "Gold - Greatest Hits" compilation became the oldest album to reach No. 1, the Official UK Charts Company said on Sunday.

First released in 1992, the compilation has previously topped the charts on four separate occasions, but Sunday's achievement was the first time an album had taken the number one spot after such a long interval.

The Swedish group has enjoyed a resurgence on the back of the success of the film version of the hit musical "Mamma Mia!", with the soundtrack topping the album charts two weeks ago.

With worldwide sales topping 28 million, "Gold" is one of the top 40 best selling albums of all time, while ABBA's legacy of hits has racked up worldwide album sales of more than 350 million, with the group still selling three million albums annually.

ABBA's success pushed last week's number one "Viva La Vida Or Death And All His Friends" by Coldplay down to two, while Welsh singer Duffy and "Rockferry" rose to number three.

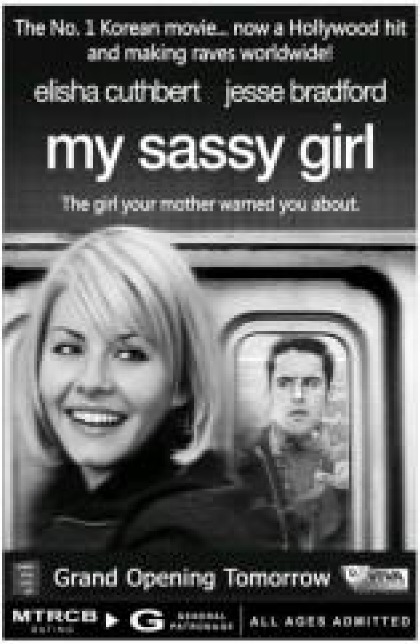
There were no new releases in the top 10, although Kid Rock's album "Rock N Roll Jesus" made an impressive showing, climbing 141 places to four.

The US musician did even better in the singles chart, taking the top spot with "All Summer Long" knocking down "Dance Wiv Me" by rapper Dizzee Rascal.

The Script's "The Man Who Can't Be Moved" climbed 27 places to three, Katy Perry and "I Kissed a Girl" rose from 139 to four, with the Saturdays the only newcomer in the top 10, coming in at eight with "If This Is Love." *Reuters*











Echo sings his heart out

He's moved on, he says, and is focusing on work







Opening Today

You Don't Mess With the Zohan

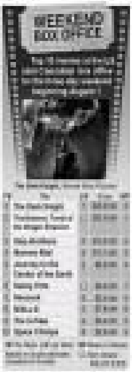


Imoral

Rogue



'Dark Knight' in top slot for 3 straight weeks



Stellar pairings brighten local TV-film prospects

Viewfinder



Nestor U. Torre

Teen Choice Awards

From page E1

Jessica) and Jon Chu's dance troupe ACDC.

Throughout the taped ceremony, the Jonas Brothers appeared on stage to field questions from teenagers on Web cameras.

At one point, the trio were strapped to harnesses and hoisted over the audience. The "Camp Rock" stars received six awards: Choice Breakout Group, Love Song, Music Single, Song of the Summer, Male Red Carpet Fashion Icon and Male Hottie.

Will Smith stopped by to pick up three trophies—one for "Hancock" and two for "I Am Legend." Chris Brown scooped five music awards: Choice Music Male Artist, R&B Artist, R&B Track, Rap/Hip-Hop Track and Music Hook-Up for his Jordin Sparks duet "No Air."

Other winners included: "The Hills" star Lauren Conrad, TV Female Reality Star; "Heroes" star Hayden Panettiere, TV Action-Adventure Actress; and David Beckham, Choice Male Athlete.

Keira Knightley, Movie Actress Drama for "Atonement"; Ashton Kutcher, Movie Actor Comedy "What Happens in Vegas"; Ellen Page, Movie Actress Comedy, "Juno"; Johnny Depp, Movie Villain, "Sweeney Todd";

Steve Carell, TV Actor Comedy, "The Office"; David Cook, TV Male Reality/Variety Star, "American Idol."

More: Movie Action Adventure, "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian"; Movie Chick Flick, "27 Dresses";

Summer Movie Comedy "Get Smart"; TV Show Comedy "Hannah Montana"; TV Reality Music Competition, "American Idol." AP

A rude awakening



Thanks, more

Pinay, ahoy!

What sore throat?

RUSHES

Left hand crushed

Top of the talk shows





'It's about the music'





The best

What binds the youth

James Bond-inspired party for Dingdong

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal





No homebody

Guess list

Pinoy advantage

Right ingredients

Wrong move?

Celebrity night